

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

GIVE ME EARS TO HEAR

Luke 8:4-8 “And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Luke, starting in chapter eight through chapter 20 devotes most of his attention to Jesus’ teaching ministry. On many occasions when Jesus was teaching He would tell a parable. Jesus tells the parable of the sower found here in Luke 8:4-8 as a device to open the eyes and ears of the hearers to a better understanding of God’s kingdom.

There were two groups within the large crowd (v.4.) There were those who were blessed by Jesus’ teaching this parable. The second group, however, were unable to understand it. They rejected His teaching. In doing so, they rejected Jesus as their Savior and ultimately crucified Him.

Seed in order to produce a crop must be sown. The main action of this parable, therefore is the sower sowing the seed. The rest of the parable is about where the seed falls and whether or not it produces a crop. It is important to note that the sower in broadcasting (throwing) the seed does so in such a way that some lands in places where it will not produce a crop and others where it will.

This parable answers a question you have probably asked. Of all the people who hear/receive God’s word, why do only some believe it and take it to heart? Through this parable Jesus answers, My word will receive a mixed reception. In some the Gospel will produce faith, in some it will produce faith for a time but it will not endure and in some it will never produce faith.

The sower is not responsible for the seeds producing a crop. He scatters it everywhere as Jesus commanded, "to all nations" (Luke 24:47) and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8.) The sower sows generously the God-given seed trusting God to cause the growth when and where He determines.

Prayer: Bless, O Lord, Your Word we spread throughout the world that it will produce faith in the hearts of people everywhere. Amen.

Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, Life giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.
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